

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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JUSTIN CHANSE RIDER,

Case No. 2:17-cv-02822-RFB-VCF

Petitioner.

ORDER

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ESMERALDA COUNTY SHERIFF.

Respondent.

14 Petitioner Justin Chanse Rider filed a *pro se* petition for writ of habeas corpus by
15 a pretrial detainee pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (ECF No. 6). Before the court is
16 respondents' amended motion to dismiss the petition (ECF No. 25). Rider opposed the
17 motion, and respondents replied (ECF Nos. 29, 30). Rider filed motions to supplement
18 his petition (ECF Nos. 31, 32). Though the court notes that it is not entirely clear what
19 these supplements add to the petition, the motions are granted. The supplements (ECF
20 Nos. 31-1, 32-1) will be considered part of Rider's petition.

I. Background and Procedural History

22 Rider is a pretrial detainee who was arrested in Texas in February 2015 (ECF No.
23 6, pp. 7-9). He was returned to Nevada in March 2015, and he has been in the custody
24 of the Esmeralda County Sheriff since that time. *Id.* He faces felony charges of sexually
25 abusing his daughter. Rider was appointed counsel, but ultimately litigated his right to
26 represent himself and has subsequently proceeded in the Fifth Judicial District pro se with
27 court-appointed standby counsel. He filed a state pretrial habeas corpus petition, which

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1 was denied (see Nevada Supreme Court Case No. 74024).¹ The Nevada Supreme Court
2 dismissed his appeal for lack of jurisdiction because no appeal lies from an order denying
3 a pretrial habeas petition. *Id.*

4 Rider's first jury trial in April 2018 ended in a jury hung 11 to 1 in favor of conviction,
5 and the State elected to re-try Rider (ECF No. 31-1; ECF No. 25, p. 4). Respondents
6 inform the court that Rider was recently tried in Fifth Judicial District Court, and the trial
7 ended in a mistrial and hung jury (see ECF No. 21, p. 2). A new trial date was set for
8 September 2018. Apparently, Rider sought a continuance while he attempted to
9 subpoena several out-of-state witnesses, and the trial was moved to December 2018 (see
10 ECF No. 31-1, p. 2; ECF No. 28, p. 2). The court then granted Rider's request for a
11 continuance as he continued to attempt to subpoena the Texas witnesses and moved the
12 trial date to February 2019. The record reflects nothing further. Rider asks this court to
13 direct the state court to release him from custody pending trial.

14 **II. Legal Standards & Analysis**

15 As a general rule, even when the claims in a petition have been fully exhausted in
16 the state courts, a federal court will not entertain a habeas petition seeking intervention
17 in a pending state criminal proceeding, absent special circumstances. See, e.g.,
18 *Sherwood v. Tomkins*, 716 F.2d 632, 634 (9th Cir. 1983); *Carden v. State of Montana*,
19 626 F.2d 82, 83-85 (9th Cir. 1980); *Davidson v. Klinger*, 411 F.2d 746 (9th Cir. 1969).

20 This rule of restraint ultimately is grounded in principles of comity that flow from
21 the abstention doctrine of *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971). Under the Younger
22 abstention doctrine, federal courts may not interfere with pending state criminal
23 proceedings absent extraordinary circumstances. There are three exceptions to the
24 Younger abstention doctrine: (1) there is evidence of state proceedings motivated by bad
25 faith; (2) irreparable injury would occur; or (3) there is no adequate alternative state forum
26 where the constitutional issues can be raised. *Id.* at 45-50.

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¹ This court takes judicial notice of the online docket of the Nevada Supreme Court.

1 Here, the record reflects that Rider was initially appointed counsel, was dissatisfied
2 with a series of appointed attorneys, and ultimately litigated his right to represent himself
3 (exhibit 6, pp. 17-21).² Since that time, Rider has represented himself and has had court-
4 appointed standby counsel. As stated, Rider's first jury trial resulted in a hung jury and
5 mistrial. Since then, Rider has filed two federal 1983 civil rights actions regarding his
6 conditions of confinement in this court. Respondents also state that Rider has filed two
7 civil rights actions in state district court (see ECF No. 25, p. 4, n.1).

8 The record reflects that the state district court has carefully considered Rider's
9 pretrial detainee habeas claim. At an August 2017 hearing on the petition, the court first
10 noted that bail was set in Rider's case.

11 I have set bail in this case. You have asked me to reconsider it. I
12 did.

13 And now you filed a writ asking for the exact same thing. So, I don't
14 care what you call it. The bottom line is, I have ruled on the issue. You
15 have offered nothing new in the scope of that that tells me, you have. I have
set bail that is reasonable in light of the charges that you are facing.

16 And I believe the bail is set, if I recall correctly, at \$100,000, and you
17 are looking at nine separate offenses, which are, involve, quite frankly, life
18 in prison without the possibility of parole. So, I think the bail amount is
reasonable. I have set bail. The fact that you are not happy with Esmeralda
County is not a basis for me to release you.

19 Exh. 6, p. 17.

20 The court also laid out the many delays and pointed out that, while Rider has a
21 right to be prepared for trial, he has failed to acknowledge that he has largely caused the
22 delay. The court noted the following: Rider's case was set for trial, and he asked for a
23 continuance. Rider insisted on having a certain investigator, and he also litigated his right
24 to represent himself at the Nevada Supreme Court. The court continued:

25 This is all delay associated with your case that you're putting all the
26 blame on behalf of the State. But it's time that you hold the mirror up and
27 look at yourself. And look at what's in the file.

28 ² Exhibits referenced in this order are exhibits to respondents' amended motion to dismiss, ECF No. 25,
and are found at ECF No. 25.

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2 I am not here for you to argue with me. I'm telling you that there are
3 two sides to this story, Mr. Rider, and you're hearing, or have your blinders
4 on and your mirror shut off on both sides of it here.

5 A lot of this delay has been on your behalf.

6 So, you can't, you are not permitted, Mr. Rider, to delay and delay,
7 and get a continuance, and then throw it back to the state to say, Your
8 Honor, you got to let me out because I haven't gone to trial for 30 months.

9 You have had a trial continuance. I am not obligated, you're not my
10 only case. In fact, I have about 2,000 cases a year.

11 So, when you say I want a right to a speedy trial, the law requires me
12 to get your matter set as quickly as I can on my congested calendar. And I
13 have done that. I have moved matters to accommodate you.

14 I have asked how much time you needed. I have given you additional
15 fees for an investigator. So, I think you need to understand that there are
16 two sides to this. And you keep pushing the same rhetoric, the same story
17 time and time again.

18 Exh. 6, pp. 20-21. Rider has not shown bad faith or irreparable injury. He has not
19 shown that there is no adequate alternative state forum as the state district court has
20 thoroughly considered his claims. Rider simply has not demonstrated any extraordinary
21 circumstances that would warrant this court's interference in his state-court proceedings.
22 The court therefore finds that it must abstain pursuant to *Younger*. Respondents motion
23 to dismiss Rider's habeas corpus petition is granted.

24 **III. Certificate of Appealability**

25 This is a final order adverse to the petitioner. Accordingly, the court has *sua sponte*
26 evaluated the claims within the petition for suitability for the issuance of a certificate of
27 appealability (COA). See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A).

28 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2), a COA may issue only when the petitioner
29 "has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." With respect to
30 claims rejected on the merits, a petitioner "must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would
31 find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong." *Slack*
32 *v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (citing *Barefoot v. Estelle*, 463 U.S. 880, 893 & n.4

1 (1983)). For procedural rulings, a COA will issue only if reasonable jurists could debate
2 (1) whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and (2)
3 whether the court's procedural ruling was correct. *Id.*

4 Having reviewed its determinations and rulings in adjudicating Rider's petition, the
5 court finds that none of those rulings meets the *Slack* standard. The court therefore
6 declines to issue a certificate of appealability for its resolution of Rider's petition.

7 **IV. Conclusion**

8 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the petition (ECF No. 6) is **DENIED**.

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a certificate of appealability is **DENIED**.

10 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that petitioner's two motions for leave to supplement
11 the petition (ECF Nos. 31, 32) are both **GRANTED**.

12 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk shall enter judgment and close this
13 case.

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15 DATED: April 23, 2019.



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17 RICHARD F. BOULWARE, II
18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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